

**What is Claimed is:**

1. A method of preventing a respiratory infection associated with intubation or mechanical ventilation, comprising topically applying to the oral cavity of a patient that is either intubated or about to be intubated a composition comprising an IB-367 peptide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, said composition being applied in an amount effective to prevent the infection.
2. The method of claim 1 which consists essentially of selective oral decontamination.
3. The method of Claim 1 in which the composition is an oral rinse.
4. The method of Claim 1 in which the composition comprises about 0.03 wt% to about 0.3 wt% IB-367.
5. The method of Claim 4 in which the composition is applied once or multiple times per day for 2 to 5 days.
6. The method of claim 4 in which 3mL of the composition is applied once every 4 to 6 hours.
7. The method of Claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 in which the IB-367 is native IB-367.
8. The method of Claim 1 in which the composition is also applied to the accessible portions of an endotracheal tube that either is or will be inserted into the patient.
9. The method of Claim 1 in which the respiratory infection is VAP.
10. A method of preventing VAP, comprising topically applying to the oral cavity of a patient that is at risk of developing VAP an aqueous composition comprising: 0.3 wt% native IB-367 peptide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, 10 wt% sorbitol, 3 wt% xylitol, 0.2 wt% hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, 0.1 wt% lactic acid, 0.18 wt% methyl paraben, 0.02 wt% propyl paraben and water to balance and which has a pH of about 4, said composition being applied in an amount effective to prevent VAP.
11. The method of claim 10 which consists essentially of selective oral decontamination.
12. The method of Claim 10 in which a single 3 ml dose is applied per day.
13. The method of Claim 10 in which the composition is applied for 2 to 5 days.

14. The method of claim 10 in which 3 ml of the composition is applied once every 4 to 6 hours.

15. The method of Claim 10, 12, 13 or 14 in which the native IB-367 is in the form of a hydrochloride salt.

16. The method of Claim 10 in which the composition is also applied to the visible portions of an endotracheal tube that either is or will be inserted into the patient.

17. A method of preventing respiratory infection associated with intubation or mechanical ventilation, consisting essentially of topically applying to the oral cavity of a patient that is either intubated or about to be intubated a composition comprising an IB-367 peptide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, said composition being applied in an amount effective to prevent the respiratory infection.

18. The method of Claim 17 in which the composition is an oral rinse.

19. The method of Claim 17 in which the composition comprises about 0.03 wt% to about 0.3 wt% IB-367.

20. The method of Claim 19 in which the composition is applied once or multiple times per day for 2 to 5 days.

21. The method of Claim 19 in which 3 mL of the composition is applied once every 4 to 6 hours.

22. The method of Claim 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 in which the IB-367 is native IB-367.

23. The method of Claim 17 in which the composition is also applied to the accessible portions of an endotracheal tube that either is or will be inserted into the patient.

24. The method of Claim 17 in which the respiratory infection is VAP.